Irradiation Processing of Food

1811. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINIS TER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irradiation processing of food would help the country save Rs. 25,000 crore worth foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether Government have not so far followed such a process; and

(c) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has submitted any proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Radiation processing can be used effectively for food grain disinfestation. However, it is difficult to quantify the savings. The technology needs to be coupled with appropriate packaging and storage system.

(b) The Government has already set up a Cobalt-60 based facility for radiation processing of spices at Vashi, Navi Mumbai. Another Cobalt-60 based facility for processing of Onion for sprout control is under construction at Lasalgaon, in Nasik District of Maharashtra State, which is likely to be commissioned in the next year. There are no facilities for radiation processing of grains so far.

(c) No, Sir. Efforts are in progress to bring in private entrepreneurs and State Government agencies for setting up such facilities in the country.

Generation of Nuclear Power

1812. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a plan to increase generation of nuclear power in the next twenty years;

(b) if so, whether any details have been worked out with regard to setting up of more nuclear power plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe. It is proposed to be increased to about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020, subject to the availability of budgetary support from the Government. During the X Five Year Plan, nuclear power capacity of 1300 MWe is planned to be added by completion of TAPP 3&4-2X500 MWe (being uprated to 540 MWe) and Kaiga 3 (one 220 MWe, out of 2x220 MWe of Kaiga 3&4 units under construction) units. Thus, the total nuclear power capacity will reach 4020 MWe by the end of the X Plan. The proposals in the X Plan envisage the commencement of new schemes, to yield benefits for reaching a total nuclear power capacity of 9935 MWe by end of XI Plan. Additional projects are also planned to be taken up in the XI Plan and beyond, to achieve a nuclear power capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

The above programme will however be subject to allocation of required plan outlays and Budgetary Support from the Government of India.

Post Office Recurring Deposit Claims

1813. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that claimants can receive the benefit of Post Office Recurring Deposit cases of missing persons after waiting for the mandatory period of seven years;

(b)if so, whether any such claims are pending for settlement from July, 2001 till date in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the reasons for not setting these claims;